

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
U.S. Non-Provisional Application Serial No. 09/582,950

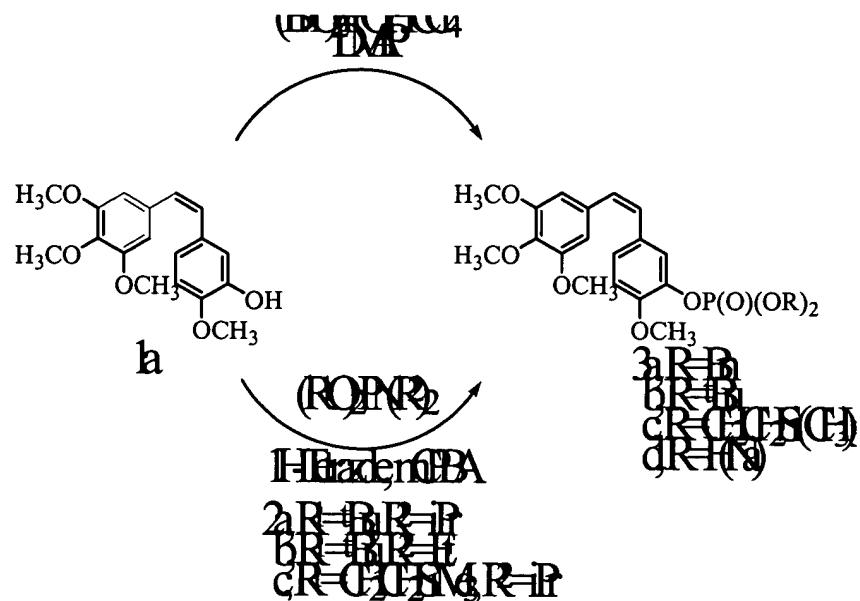
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification, after the title page:

This application is the U.S. national phase of PCT/US99/00419 filed January 8, 1999, which claims priority to U.S. provisional applications nos. 60/071,070 filed January 9, 1998 and 60/111,531 filed December 9, 1999.

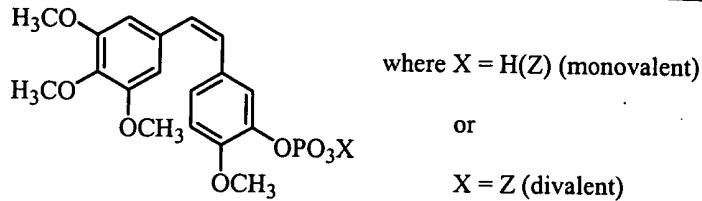
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Please insert the figure below in place of the figure shown on top of page 7 of the originally filed specification. This amendment corrects a typographical error in the chemical formula for the phosphoramidites used in the reaction (which appears directly above the bottom arrow), from " $(R^1O)_2PN^2_2$ " to " $(R^1O)_2PN(R^2)_2$ ".



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Please insert the figure below in place of the figure shown on the bottom of page 8 of the originally filed specification, correcting the spelling of "divalent" to "divalent".



5a	$Z = Ca^{2+}$	g	$Z = imidazole$	m	$Z = adenosine$
b	$Z = Cs^{2+}$	h	$Z = morpholine$	n	$Z = cinchonine$
c	$Z = Li^+$	i	$Z = piperazine$	o	$Z = glucosamine$
d	$Z = Mg^{2+}$	j	$Z = piperidine$	p	$Z = quinine$
e	$Z = Mn^{2+}$	k	$Z = pyrazole$	q	$Z = quinidine$
f	$Z = Zn^{2+}$	l	$Z = pyridine$	r	$Z = tetracycline$
				s	$Z = verapamil$